

¹¹ The most remarkable social and political phenomenon observable in this republic to-day is the immense and growing popularity of Theodore Roosevelt, Through the large numbers of dispatches from the editors of Republican newspapers which we print this morning there runs this single note—the President's popularity is growing; he is to-day stronger with the people than ever before. The enthusiasm he has aroused asks no questions, demands no pledges, imposes no conditions. Its confidence, like its admiration, is boundless.

¹¹ No American statesman ever had such an unquestioning support, a support so completely uncritical or one so manifestly due to the inspiration awakened by personality. It is an astonishing spectacle. To the nomination of President Grant in 1880 it was felt that the third-term tradition offered an insuperable obstacle. It will not in the slightest degree avail against the wave of popular favor that now promises to make Mr. Roosevelt the candidate next year. With the spirit he has invoked and stirred tradition counts for nothing. If the time for nobering up should be long deferred, we do not know that even institutions would count for very much."

To his cousin, Mr. W. Bmlen Roosevelt, on November 9, 1907, the President wrote:

"Most emphatically, I do not wish to run again for President, As I think I have made this remark in public* and in private letters which were not marked private, several hun-

dred times, in addition to Baying it quite as
oftcm in private
conversation, it really does not seem advisable
to say any-
thing more at present I find that it is
absolutely useless
to try to correct untruths or
misrepresentations even of
the most flagrant kind in the newspapers* If I
should say
anything whatever about not running again it
would cause
a furore for one week and then the next week,
they would
say I was intriguing for a nomination and
would expect
a denial/¹